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DE RUEHNE #3755 1501215
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4586
INFO RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE
RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2267
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 5569
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 0214
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 5583
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 8572
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL 2950
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 6249
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0089
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 8618
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3386
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 4307
RUEHCG/AMCONSUL CHENNAI 4236
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI 4114
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE 2679
RUEHBI/AMCONSUL MUMBAI 3484
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR 3335
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
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RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0962
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3245
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PINR](#) [KISL](#) [IN](#) [SY](#)

SUBJECT: MEA QUESTIONS SYRIA DEMARCHE

REF: A. SECSTATE 86448

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 84203

Classified By: DCM Robert Blake, Jr. for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#)1. (C) Acting PolCouns delivered ref A demarche to MEA Joint Secretary (Americas) S. Jaishankar on May 30, and explained

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why a Syrian FM Walid Mu'allim visit -- if in fact true -- would undermine international efforts to isolate Syria and would be poorly viewed in Congress and the Administration.

[1](#)2. (C) Acknowledging that he would need to check with his colleagues as to the veracity of the reported trip to New Delhi by Mu'allim, Jaishankar noted that there was no U.N. restriction on travel by Syrians to India and strongly doubted that Mu'allim would not be permitted to visit. It is common knowledge that India has good relations with Syria, Jaishankar remarked, and added that the GOI finds it surprising that the USG would even present a demarche asking for New Delhi to refuse entry to the FM.

[1](#)3. (C) Recalling the that a previous USG demarche regarding oil exploration contracts in Syria "was received poorly" and spark a political flap in India, Jaishankar indicated that this demarche would be received in the same vein.

[1](#)4. (C) Jaishankar also expressed concern that the USG seemed to expect the GOI to "adjust our policies to match yours" as the bilateral relationship improves, instead of using the warming of relations to understand each other's positions better. "I would hope the USG would view the improving bilateral relations as a chance to understand our policies, not simply trying to change them," Jaishankar concluded.

[1](#)5. (C) Acting PolCouns also used the opportunity to double-track ref tel B demarche, to which Jaishankar stated he would follow up with the relevant MEA divisions.
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